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Throughout the first four chapters in section two of The House of Mirth, we catch a much deeper glimpse at the type of person Lily Bart is. From charming socialite, taking Europe by storm to the center of salacious gossip and rumors, it becomes increasingly clear to the reader the troubles that Lily’s social climbing are putting her in. One of the standout observations of this fact come from Mrs. Fisher, who explains to Selden “That's Lily all over, you know: she works like a slave preparing the ground and sowing her seed; but the day she ought to be reaping the harvest she over-sleeps herself or goes off on a picnic" (Chapter 2.1), an insightful remark about Lily’s character that encompasses her past behavior, and may very well predict how her story may end.

From the very beginning of the story, it is made clear that Lily Bart was born into a life of privilege, and that she has every intention of remaining there. For women of the time, the only way to secure a financial future was via marriage. And although Lily encounters a great number of suitors, all extremely interested in taking her as a bride, she routinely finds fault in each one of them. From Percy Gryce, a man of well-off means and good social standing, to Lawrence Selden, a man whom Lily has genuine feelings for, not one of them fully meets the standards Lily has set for her groom. But surely not all of these men could be so terrible that an eligible young woman would reject every one of them. It becomes evident that the person most standing in the way of finding Lily a husband is herself.

Lily’s inability to be satisfied by anything has also led her down the precarious path of social climbing, a tricky game in itself. As evidenced through the gossip and speculation surrounding her relationship with George Dorset and her shady deal with Mr. Trenor, Lily proves that there is no price too great for her to pay on her way to the top. In short, Lily Bart will never find her perfect match, because, in her ever-discontented mind, nothing and no one will ever be good enough for her.

Although there is a bit of the story left to read, it seems that Lily Bart may never be able to find true love, happiness, or even contentment from any marriage she may have. But it isn’t her fault. The pomp and circumstance of upper class society at the time, as well as her lavish upbringing, have made it nearly impossible for her to ever be satisfied by anything. Despite her best efforts to find a perfect husband, a game she plays very well, the end result is never good enough, and she simply moves on the moment she finds any flaw with the man or the courtship. Is it possible for someone so caught up in superficial things to ever know the true joys of life: love, happiness, and peace?